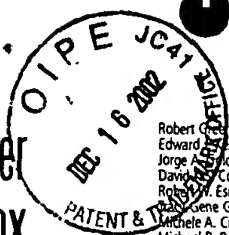




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December 16, 2002

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Art Unit 1761

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 10/040,942; Filed: January 9, 2002
For: **Process for the Production of Reconstitutable Bean Products**
Inventors: Borders *et al.*
Our Ref: 1533.0580001/SRL/NJL

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Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. First Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement;
2. Form PTO-1449 citing 1 reference;
3. Copy of 1 cited reference; and
4. One (1) return postcard.

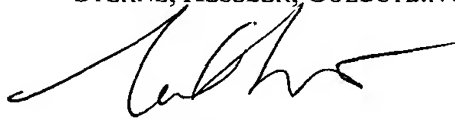
It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents
December 16, 2002
Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Nancy J. Leith
Agent for Applicants
Registration No. 45,309

SRL/NJL:cpn
Enclosures

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SKGF Rev. 2/15/02 dcw